

104TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 1857

To establish a bipartisan commission on campaign practices and provide that its recommendations be given expedited consideration.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 11, 1996

Mr. DOLE introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and Administration

A BILL

To establish a bipartisan commission on campaign practices and provide that its recommendations be given expedited consideration.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Bipartisan Campaign
5 Practices Commission Act of 1996”.

6 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT.**

7 There is established a commission to be known as the
8 “Bipartisan Commission on Campaign Practices” (re-
9 ferred to in this Act as the “Commission”).

1 **SEC. 3. DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.**

2 The Commission shall study the laws and regulations
3 that affect how campaigns for Federal office are con-
4 ducted and may make recommendations for change. In
5 studying Federal campaign practices, the Commission
6 shall consider—

7 (1) whether too much or too little money is
8 spent trying to influence campaigns for Federal of-
9 fice and whether the funds that are spent are suffi-
10 ciently disclosed;

11 (2) whether the current laws (including regula-
12 tions) governing campaigns for Federal office en-
13 courage or discourage those most qualified to hold
14 office from seeking it;

15 (3) whether the existing system of financing
16 campaigns for Federal office promotes trust and
17 confidence in the political process among the elector-
18 ate;

19 (4) whether the rules governing access to media
20 ensure that the electorate has the greatest possible
21 opportunity to be informed of candidates' positions
22 on the issues; and

23 (5) such other matters as the Commission con-
24 siders appropriate.

1 **SEC. 4. MEMBERSHIP.**

2 (a) COMPOSITION.—The Commission shall be com-
3 posed of 9 members of the private sector, as follows:

4 (1) Two shall be appointed by the Majority
5 Leader of the Senate.

6 (2) Two shall be appointed by the Speaker of
7 the House of Representatives.

8 (3) Two shall be appointed by the President.

9 (4) One shall be appointed by the Minority
10 Leader of the Senate.

11 (5) One shall be appointed by the Minority
12 Leader of the House of Representatives.

13 (6) A chairperson shall be appointed in accord-
14 ance with subsection (b).

15 (b) CHAIRPERSON.—

16 (1) SELECTION.—Within 7 days after all the
17 members described in section 3(a) (1) through (5)
18 are appointed, those members shall meet and by ma-
19 jority vote select a chairperson.

20 (2) FAILURE TO MAKE SELECTION.—If, by the
21 date that is 30 days after the date of the meeting
22 described in subsection (b), the office of chairperson
23 is still vacant, all current members of the Commis-
24 sion shall be discharged from further service as
25 members of the Commission.

1 (c) VACANCIES.—A vacancy in the Commission shall
 2 be filled in the manner in which the original appointment
 3 was made.

4 (d) COMPENSATION.—Each member of the Commis-
 5 sion shall each be entitled to receive the daily equivalent
 6 of the annual rate of basic pay in effect for level V of
 7 the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5, Unit-
 8 ed States Code, for each day during which the member
 9 is engaged in the actual performance of the duties of the
 10 Commission.

11 (e) QUORUM.—Six members of the Commission shall
 12 constitute a quorum, and any decision of the Commission
 13 shall require the affirmative vote of 6 members.

14 (f) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet at the
 15 call of the chairperson or at the request of 6 members
 16 of the Commission.

17 **SEC. 5. STAFF OF COMMISSION; SERVICES.**

18 Subject to such rules as may be adopted by the Com-
 19 mission, the chairperson, without regard to the provisions
 20 of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in
 21 the competitive service and without regard to the provi-
 22 sions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of
 23 that title relating to classifications and General Schedule
 24 pay rates, may appoint such staff personnel as the chair-
 25 person considers necessary and procure temporary and

1 intermittent services to the same extent as is authorized
2 by section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code.

3 **SEC. 6. RECOMMENDATION; FAST TRACK PROCEDURES.**

4 (a) REPORT.—Not later than 30 days after the con-
5 vening of the 105th Congress, the Commission shall sub-
6 mit to Congress a report describing the study conducted
7 under section 3.

8 (b) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The report under sub-
9 section (a) may include any recommendations for changes
10 in the laws (including regulations) governing the conduct
11 of Federal campaigns, including any changes in the rules
12 of the Senate or the House of Representatives, to which
13 6 or more members of the Commission may agree.

14 (c) PREPARATION OF BILLS.—If 7 or more members
15 concur on 1 or more recommendations for changes in the
16 way campaigns for Federal office are conducted, the mem-
17 bers agreeing on each such recommendation shall prepare
18 for each a bill that would implement the recommendation,
19 and the implementing bill shall be submitted with the re-
20 port under subsection (a).

21 (d) CONSIDERATION BY CONGRESS.—Each imple-
22 menting bill submitted with the report under subsection
23 (a) shall be given expedited consideration under the same
24 provisions and in the same way as an implementing bill

1 for a trade agreement under section 151 of the Trade Act
2 of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2191).

3 **SEC. 7. TERMINATION.**

4 The Commission shall cease to exist 30 days after
5 submission of the report under section 6.

6 **SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

7 There is authorized to be appropriated \$750,000 to
8 carry out this Act.

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